

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph at page 2, lines 19-35, with the following amended paragraph:

The precipitant is desirably intimately admixed throughout the whole of the foamed gelling agent, preferably during the foaming process. In certain circumstances however the presence of the precipitant on one surface of the foamed gelling agent may be sufficient to cause stabilisation of the foam. Examples of precipitants include stabilising crosslinking agents which render the gelling agent insoluble. Examples include salts of polyvalent metal ions such as calcium, zinc, ~~copper, silver~~ or aluminium as well as borates, glyoxal and amino-formaldehyde precondensates. In one embodiment, the polyvalent metal ion may be released from a water-soluble glass which is admixed into the foamable carrier in comminuted form. ~~A copper ion-releasing water soluble glass, a zinc ion-releasing water soluble glass and mixtures thereof are particularly of interest.~~

Please replace the paragraph at page 5, lines 3-14, with the following amended paragraph:

Alternatively, the foam can be produced onto a mould or other surface area, allowed to cure (for example by air drying or oven drying) and then applied to the body surface as a dressing. A foam sheet of this type is a preferred embodiment of the invention since it exhibits sufficient stability for easy handling whilst retaining a moist surface to promote wound healing. Optionally, the foam may be applied about a substrate (~~for example cloth, mesh, non-woven pad of alginate fibres, nylon, rayon, polylactid acid, polyglycolic acid, polycaprolactone or biocompatible glass fibres~~) which are then integrated into the foam pad produced.

Please replace the paragraph at page 9, lines 31 – page 10, line 9, with the following amended paragraph:

~~In a preferred embodiment the foamable carrier includes a combination of copper and zinc ions, optionally in the form of water soluble glass(es). We have found that a foam containing appropriate quantities of these metal ions are particularly resistant to the deleterious effects of sterilisation. We hypothesise that the copper and zinc ions act as scavenger of free radicals produced in the foam during sterilisation and which are, we believe, responsible for the breakdown in structure of the foam. Additionally, both copper and zinc ions have a radioprotective effect. Consequently, we~~ We consider that any material known for its use as a free radical scavenger and/or as a radioprotectant may likewise exhibit a protective effect on the foam structure during sterilisation.

Please replace the paragraph at page 11, lines 24-30, with the following amended paragraph:

Antiseptics, Antibacterials and Antifungal agents, such as Chlorhexidine, acetic acid, polynoxylin, povidone iodine, mercurochrome phenoxyethanol, acridene, ~~silver nitrate~~, dyes eg brilliant green[[,]] and undecanoic acid, ~~silver sulphadiazine, silver proteins and other silver compounds~~, metronidazole, benzaclonium chloride;

Please replace the paragraph at page 12, lines 5-7, with the following amended paragraph:

Elements - zinc, selenium, cerium, ~~copper~~, manganese, cobalt, boron, arsenic, chromium, ~~silver~~, gold, gallium;

Please delete the text beginning at page 16, line 36 and extending to page 17, lines 28.

Please replace the paragraph at page 17, lines 30-31, with the following amended paragraph:

Experiment 3 2. Gel Code 4 Carageenan gel mixed with calcium citrate compared to gel code 4 gel alone

Please replace the paragraph at page 18, lines 12-15, with the following amended paragraph:

Experiment 3 [[4]]. Gel Code 4½ Carageenan gel and gel code 6½ alginate gel mixed with calcium citrate compared to gel code 4½ carageenan gel and gel code 6½ alginate gel alone

Please replace the paragraph at page 18 lines 34-35, with the following amended paragraph:

Experiment 4 [[5]]. Gel Code 6½ Alginate gel mixed with calcium citrate and added bentone IPM gel

Please replace the paragraph at page 19 lines 13-14, with the following amended paragraph:

Experiment 5 [[6]]. Gel Code 6½ Alginate gel mixed with calcium citrate and added cetrimide

Please replace the paragraph at page 19 lines 25-26, with the following amended paragraph:

Experiment 6 [[7]]. Gel Code 6½ Alginate gel mixed with calcium citrate and added Tween 20

Please replace the paragraph at page 20, lines 1-3, with the following amended paragraph:

Experiment 7 [[8]]. Gel Code 4 Carboxmethyl cellulose and gel code 6½ alginate gel mixed with calcium citrate compared to the gel alone

Please replace the paragraph at page 20, lines 11-13, with the following amended paragraph:

Experiment 8 [[9]]. Gel Code 4 Carboxymethyl cellulose gel mixed with aluminium chloride compared with the gel alone

Please replace the paragraph at page 20, lines 20-21, with the following amended paragraph:

Experiment 9 [[10]]. Gel Code 6 Alginate gel mixed with citric acid compared to gel code 6 alginate gel alone

Please replace the paragraph at page 21, lines 1-3, with the following amended paragraph:

Experiment 10 [[11]]. Gel Code 6½ Alginate gel was mixed with the following powders on a 100 g gel: 2.5 g powder basis

Please replace the paragraph at page 21, lines 15-17, with the following amended paragraph:

Experiment 11 [[12]]. Setting performances of a foam of a gel code 6½ alginate gel as a function of the amounts of calcium citrate.

Please replace the paragraph at page 22, lines 1-2, with the following amended paragraph:

Experiment 12 [[13]]. Gel Code 6½ alginate gel with calcium citrate and isopentane.

Please replace the table at page 25 with the following amended table:

Can Ref	Top Can Component	Ca Chloride Conc.	Glycerine Sol Conc.	Drying Time	Description of Alginate Pad After EtO Sterilisation
1	2.5 g Ca Citrate	1%	1%	8 hrs	Flexible, soft & sponge-like
				16 hrs	Flexible, soft & sponge-like
2	2.5 g Ca Citrate	2.5%	1%	8 hrs	Moist, flexible & sponge-like
				16 hrs	Flexible, soft & sponge-like
3	2.5 g Ca Citrate	5%	1%	8 hrs	Dry pad with limited flexibility
				16 hrs	Dry pad with limited flexibility
4	2.5 g Ca Citrate	2.5%	2%	8 hrs	Moist, flexible, soft & sponge-like
				16 hrs	Moist, flexible, soft & sponge-like
5	2.5 g Ca Citrate	2.5%	2.5%	8 hrs	Moist, flexible, sponge-like pad
				16 hrs	Moist, flexible, sponge-like pad
6	2.5 g Ca Citrate	2.5%	5%	8 hrs	Moist, flexible, soft & sponge-like
				16 hrs	Moist, flexible, soft & sponge-like
7	2 g Ca Citrate 2 g Activated Charcoal	2.5%	5%	8 hrs	Moist, flexible, soft & sponge-like
				16 hrs	Moist, flexible, soft & sponge-like
8	2 g Ca Citrate 2 g Cu/Zn WSG	2.5%	5%	8 hrs	Moist, flexible, soft & sponge-like
				16 hrs	Moist, flexible, soft & sponge-like
8	2.5 g Ca Citrate 2 g Povidone Iodine	2.5%	5%	8 hrs	Moist, flexible, soft & sponge-like
				16 hrs	Moist, flexible, soft & sponge-like